

Welcome to CalClim!

By Laura Edwards

Welcome to this first edition of CalClim, what we plan to be a monthly newsletter on the state of climate in California. This newsletter is in combination with a website that is intended to serve as a climate monitoring and research data source. At the beginning of each month we want to share highlights, interesting climate events and other climate news of the previous month.

Each issue will have temperature and precipitation figures for the month for a number of stations around the state. We will also include some narratives on weather and climate events over the course of the month, such as storm events and extremes or records. In addition, we will feature an interesting topic or climate story in each issue.

We're excited to get this new project underway. Feedback and ideas are invited at any time, especially during our early phases. This newsletter wouldn't be interesting if there's nothing to tell...let us know if there is a special topic or area that you would like to see featured in this newsletter.

Thank you for taking a look at our first issue. We hope this will be a useful and informative publication in the months (and years) to come.

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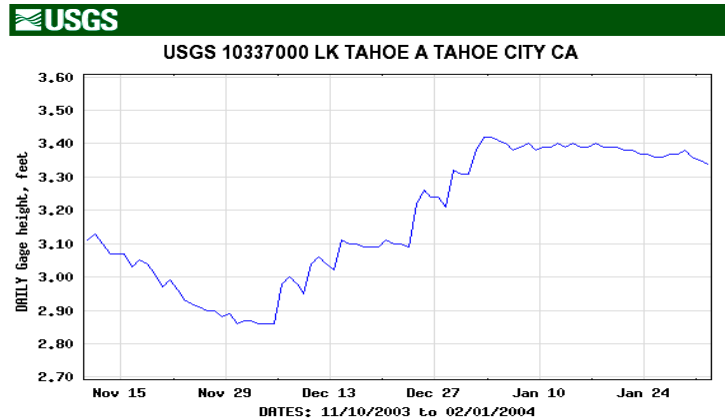
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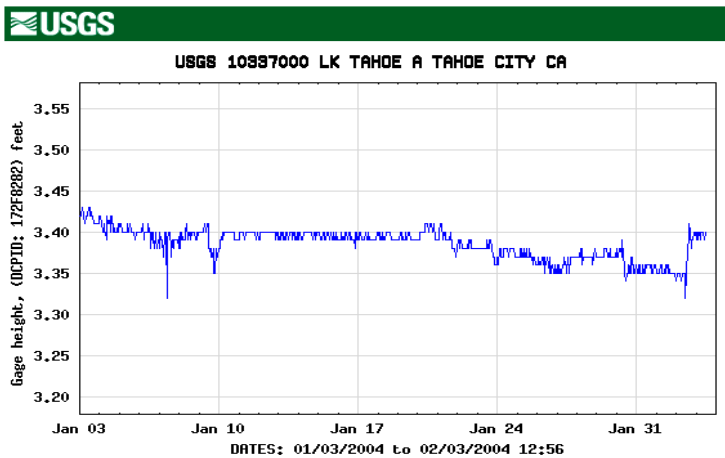
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Tahoe At Its Rim



Lake height is 6220 + Gage height. 6223 feet is natural rim elevation.



Provisional Data Subject to Revision

Lake height is 6220 + Gage height.

Lake Tahoe's level has been teetering on its natural rim since the fall season. In November, the lake's level fell below the rim for about three weeks. Lake level reached a minimum of 6222.86 feet on December 3-5, over 1.5 inches below its natural rim, and 2.6 feet from the record low 6220.26 set on November 30, 1992. The lake is the primary water source for the Truckee River which flows through north Reno to Pyramid Lake, NV. When the lake is below its natural rim, water does not naturally flow into the Truckee River. There has been a steady rise in lake level since early December, rising about 6 inches from its lowest level to its current level of 6223.39 feet. Lake Tahoe has a natural seasonal variation in lake level due to precipitation patterns, rising in the winter and spring wet seasons and sinking in the summer and fall dry seasons. Last year, the lake fell to 6223.03 ft. Lake level two months ago was the lowest since October 31, 1994 where Tahoe measured to only 6221.01 ft.

Station Data for January 2004

Station Name	Ta	da	Tx	dx	Tn	dn	pmo	pdp	pct
Alturas	32	3	40	-2	24	9	1.10	-0.31	78
Bakersfield	49	1	56	-1	42	3	0.58	-0.27	68
Bishop	36	-2	50	-4	21	-1	0.03	-1.03	3
Blue Canyon	38	-1	42	-3	33	1	3.69	-8.22	31
Blythe	56	3	69	3	43	2	0.02	-0.36	5
Burbank	55	1	66	-1	44	3	0.07	-2.90	2
Campo	34	-14	44	-18	24	-9	0.22	-2.26	9
Chico AFS	46	1	53	-1	39	3	3.36	-1.62	67
Daggett AP	48	-0	61	0	36	-1	0.00	-0.49	0
Death Valley	27	-25	36	-30	18	-21	0.00	-0.25	0
Eureka	48	0	53	-1	43	1	5.73	-0.12	98
Fresno	47	1	53	-1	40	3	0.29	-1.61	15
Imperial	55	-1	69	-0	40	-2	0.09	-0.27	25
King City	47	-2	57	-6	36	1	0.95	-1.12	46
Lancaster	41	-3	55	-2	27	-3	0.01	-1.30	1
Lompoc	50	-3	61	-5	40	-1	0.24	-2.39	9
Long Beach AP	57	1	66	-1	47	2	0.63	-1.77	26
Los Angeles	57	-1	67	-1	48	-1	0.47	-2.41	16
Los Angeles AP	57	0	65	-1	49	1	0.49	-1.90	21
Los Banos	36	-9	44	-11	28	-8	0.43	-1.14	27
Manzanita Lake	21	-10	29	-13	13	-7	1.86	-3.82	33
Marysville	46	1	53	-1	40	3	2.77	-1.25	69
Mineral	29	-3	39	-3	18	-3	5.04	-3.99	56
Monterey FAA	50	-1	58	-3	42	0	0.47	-1.99	19
Mt. Shasta	35	0	43	-1	27	2	4.47	-1.55	74
Napa	49	1	56	-2	41	3	3.38	-1.76	66
Needles AP	54	2	65	1	44	2	0.00	-0.44	0
Newport Beach Ha	56	1	62	-1	50	3	0.46	-1.56	23
Palm Springs	44	-5	53	-3	36	-7	0.06	-3.44	2
Pasadena	56	0	65	-3	47	4	0.05	-3.66	1
Paso Robles AP	47	1	59	-1	36	2	0.67	-1.87	26
Porterville	46	-0	53	-4	39	3	0.87	-1.01	46
Red Bluff FSS	45	-1	53	-3	37	-0	2.57	-1.44	64
Redding	44	-0	53	-2	35	1	2.73	-2.73	50
Redwood City	51	2	58	-1	44	5	0.43	-3.60	11
Riverside	43	-11	53	-13	33	-9	0.42	-1.38	23
Sacramento AP	47	2	53	1	41	3	2.12	-1.42	60
Salinas AP	50	-1	59	-2	41	1	1.37	-0.77	64
San Diego AP	57	-0	64	-2	50	1	0.39	-1.35	22
San Fran MD	52	0	57	0	47	1	3.39	-0.50	87
San Francisco Ap	50	2	55	-1	46	4	3.05	-1.07	74
San Jose	51	1	57	-1	44	4	1.77	-0.83	68
Santa Ana Fire S	57	-0	68	-0	46	0	0.33	-2.07	14
Santa Barbara	50	-2	63	-1	38	-2	0.53	-2.64	17
Santa Cruz	47	-3	54	-6	39	0	3.22	-2.28	59
Santa Maria AP	50	-2	62	-2	38	-1	0.77	-1.40	36
Santa Rosa	48	1	57	-1	40	3	3.45	-2.62	57
Shasta Dam	44	-2	51	-2	37	-1	7.58	-3.20	70
Stockton WSO	40	-5	46	-7	35	-3	1.59	-1.12	59
Thermal AP	54	-1	71	0	37	-2	0.01	-0.45	2
Torrance	41	-15	48	-19	34	-11	0.82	-2.08	28
UCLA	58	-0	66	-0	50	-0	0.83	-2.18	28
Ukiah	47	0	55	-3	39	3	3.99	-3.65	52
Visalia	46	0	52	-2	40	2	0.83	-0.96	46
Wasco	32	-13	39	-16	26	-10	0.23	-0.89	21
Yosemite	33	-4	41	-8	26	-0	0.48	-5.66	8

**Preliminary data, subject to revision. Some stations may have missing data.

NOTES:

Overall January 2004 was an uneventful month. Across the state there were slightly below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The northern part of the state fared better water-wise with more with 60-100% of normal precipitation. The south had well below normal rainfall.

A system came through early and left behind rain at low elevations, heavy snow in the Sierras, and high winds in the Shasta area. 1-day snow totals on Jan 1st-2nd included 24 inches at Truckee, 26 at South Lake Tahoe, 28 at Mammoth Lakes and 40 at Alpine Meadows ski area. Additional 2-22 inches of snow fell around California Jan 2nd-3rd as the system put on its finishing touches.

The middle of the month was quiet with very little precipitation, but fog held its grip on the Central Valley.

The last week of the month brought out some more snow in the Sierras, but only meager amounts totaling 2-11 inches at stations around Donner Summit and Lake Tahoe on Jan 28th-29th.

- **Ta** = average temperature
- **da** = departure from normal average temp.
- **Tx** = average maximum temperature
- **dx** = departure from normal average maximum temp.
- **Tn** = average minimum temperature
- **dn** = departure from normal average minimum temp.
- **pmo** = total precipitation
- **pdp** = departure from normal total monthly precipitation
- **pct** = precipitation percent of normal

Snow, Snow, Snow

With the winter season comes concerns of snow depth and snow water content for forecasting spring run-off to feed lower elevation streams and rivers in California. We've gathered a few sources and numbers for this water year, since October 1, 2003.

Summary of Snow Surveys from CDEC (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/reports/COURSES.html>)

Region	No. Basins	No. Courses	Avg WC	% Average April 1	% Average February 1
North Coast	3	9	24.5"	87%	141%
Sacramento	6	63	24.7"	80%	125%
San Joaquin Valley	5	59	22.3"	69%	109%
Tulare Lake	4	40	14.8"	62%	102%
North Lahontan	3	12	14.9"	69%	110%
South Lahontan	2	19	12.1"	62%	99%
Statewide average (weighted)				73%	117%

Precipitation Summary By Hydrologic Region										
Hydrologic Region	Hydro Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average		
		Basins	Jan	Oct-Jan	Stations	Jan	Oct-Jan	Jan	Oct-Jan	Wat-Yr
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	3	3	21	8	8	83.1%	98%	57%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	1	1	6	1	1	68.4%	110%	63%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	2	2	12	5	5	19.5%	52%	28%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	3	3	18	12	9	21.3%	36%	18%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	5	4	45	21	19	54.0%	90%	48%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	5	5	25	12	12	48.1%	83%	43%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	4	4	28	19	18	44.5%	77%	39%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	3	3	35.4%	70%	37%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	2	2	15	7	7	10.4%	43%	22%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	4	4	13.0%	32%	14%
STATEWIDE weighted average	1.00	36	29	28	190	92	86	52.29%	80.13%	43.63%

Source: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/current/PRECIPSUM>

SNOTEL is reporting near-average precipitation of 75-110% and snow water content of 90-125% for its four California river basins in the central Sierra Nevada.

For more Snotel info visit: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/snotel_climate.html

The state of California Department of Water Resources will release their Bulletin 120 in mid-February with an update on snow conditions and snowmelt and flood forecasts.